

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 2-6, 13-18, 20-22, and 24-28 are pending in the application.

Claims 2-6 (allowability set in the previous Office Action of July 12, 2005), 20-22 and 24-28 are allowed.

Claims 13, 15 and 17 are objected to for being allowable if amended into independent form.

Claims 14, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartnett (US 6,167,479) in view of Yamahata (US Patent No. 4,847,748).

According to the foregoing rejected claims 14, 16 and 18 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice, objected to allowed dependent claims 15 and 17 are amended into independent form, and, thus, only the pending Examiner allowed claims 2-6, 13, 15, 17, 20-22 and 24-28 remain pending, which place the application in condition for allowance.

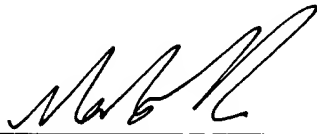
In telephone conference with Examiner on March 8, 2007, Examiner was informed of the foregoing claim amendments with only Examiner allowed claims pending and cancellation of rejected claims to place the application in condition for allowance.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Mehdi D. Sheikerz
Registration No. 41,307

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501